GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1287
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Satellites Launched
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India"s space capacity of 34 working satellites is barely half of what the country needs and is severely limited to meet increasing demands from both the centre and State Governments and business and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether ISRO plans to put 12-18 satellites in space each year to meet this demand and also wants to be free to pursue higher technologies and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the domestic industry should urgently step into making satellites and launch vehicles to meet this demand;
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the domestic industry for taking up this cause and the details of private industries working with ISRO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) India presently has 38 operational satellites in orbit comprising of 16 Earth observation (including meteorological), 13 communication, 7 navigational and 2 Space Science satellites. These satellites are being utilized to their full capacity to meet the demands of Central & State Governments and business in the area of natural resources management, infrastructure planning, disaster management support, enabling weather forecasting, including the demands of satellite communication. To ensure continuity of services and to meet further demands in these areas, a plan is in place to suitably augment the space infrastructure.

(b), (c) & (d)
Considering the enhanced national requirements for launching satellites for earth observation, communication & navigation, the present capacity of launches is a constraint. ISRO has been pursuing a conscious approach of building up and nurturing the industrial capabilities in the country to maximally support the Indian Space Programme. Through appropriate transfer of technology and hand-holding, ISRO is making focused efforts to enhance participation of Indian industries for manufacturing of space related hardware such as rocket engine & stages, propellant tanks, spacecraft structures, solar panels, thermal control systems, electronic packages etc., required for satellites and launch vehicles.
In order to step up the launch capacity within the country, ISRO is in the process of exploring the possibility of involving Indian industry in a greater role towards productionization of integrated systems/ subsystems, including assembly and testing by vendor as per ISRO's design.

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